

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 251403

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: OCTOBER 1 GREEK-TURKISH MEETING ON AEGEAN

REF: USUN 4113

1. GREEK UN PERMREP PAPOULIAS HAS GIVEN DEPARTMENT OFFICER FURTHER DETAILS OF OCTOBER 1 BITSIOS-CAGLAYANGIL CONVERSATION IN NEW YORK ON AEGEAN. PAPOULIAS, WHO WAS PRESENT AT MEETING OF TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, CONFIRMED TURKISH VERSION (REFTEL) THAT SESSION WENT SMOOTHLY. PAPOULIAS SAID CAGLAY-CONFIDENTIAL

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ANGIL WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO BE AFFABLE AND CONCILIATORY,

AND THAT WHILE MEETING LASTED ONLY ONE HOUR, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE DISCUSSED AND RESOLVED.

2. PAPOULIAS SAID GREEKS AND TURKS QUICKLY REACHED AGREEMENT TO RESUME AIRSPACE DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS ON NOVEMBER 2. THIS WOULD BE AT A SPECIALIST LEVEL. MORE IMPORTANT MEETING ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WILL ALSO BEGIN ON NOVEMBER 2 IN GENEVA. THE HEADS OF THE TWO DELEGATIONS, JOHN TZOUNIS AND AMBASSADOR BILGE, WILL BE GIVEN A SPECIAL DESIGNATION TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SESSIONS ARE NOT CHARACTERIZED AS EXPERTS-LEVEL MEETINGS. NO TIME LIMIT HAS BEEN SET FOR THESE GENEVA MEETINGS, SO THAT EACH SIDE HAS A CHANCE TO PRESENT ITS IDEAS ON AEGEAN DELIMITATION QUESTIONS. THE GENEVA MEETING

WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A FURTHER MEETING BETWEEN CAGLAYANGIL AND BITSIOS SOME TIME AROUND NOVEMBER 18, AT WHICH FURTHER WORKING AND MINISTERIAL LEVEL SESSIONS WILL BE SCHEDULED, POSSIBLY AROUND THE TIME OF THE NATO MINISTERIALS IN BRUSSELS.

3. BITSIOS AND CAGLAYANGIL ALSO REACHED AGREEMENT ON A PROCEDURE WHICH WILL KEEP THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE FROM CONSIDERING THE AEGEAN DELIMITATION QUESTION FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR. THE GREEKS HAVE AGREED TO GO TO THE COURT ON OR ABOUT OCTOBER 12 AND ASK FOR A DELAY OF SIX MONTHS IN SUBMITTING THEIR BRIEF. AT THE END OF THIS SIX-MONTH PERIOD, THEY MAY ASK FOR AN ADDITIONAL 90-DAY EXTENSION. IT ALSO WAS AGREED THAT WHEN THE GREEKS DID SUBMIT THEIR POSITION, THE TURKS WOULD APPROACH THE COURT AND REQUEST SIX MONTHS TO PREPARE THEIR RESPONSE. IN THIS WAY ICJ CONSIDERATION OF EVEN THE JURISDICTION ISSUE WILL BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL OCTOBER 1977.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE SISMIC, BITSIOS ASKED THAT NO SAILINGS TAKE PLACE WHILE NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS. CAGLAYANGIL GAVE NO FIRM ASSURANCE. HE DID SAY THAT HE FAVORED A POSTPONEMENT, AND WOULD TALK PERSONALLY TO DEMIREL, WHO HE THOUGHT WOULD ALSO BE SYMPATHETIC. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SPEAK WITH THE SAME CONFIDENCE ABOUT ENERGY MINISTER KILIC OR THE REST OF THE COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT CONFIDENTIAL

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HE PROMISED TO DO HIS BEST IN ANKARA AND IMPLIED THAT THE GREEKS COULD BE REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT THE SISMIC WOULD NOT SAIL IN APRIL 1977 AND THAT PUBLICITY ABOUT SEISMIC RESEARCH WOULD BE NOTICEABLY CURTAILED.

5. PAPOULIAS CONCLUDED REVIEW WITH STATEMENT THAT GREEKS WERE CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT REAL BEGINNING HAD BEEN MADE TOWARD NEGOTIATING CRITICAL AEGEAN ISSUES. REAL TEST, OF

COURSE, WOULD COME AT NOVEMBER 2 SESSIONS IN PARIS AND
GENEVA.

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